



# Oneida County Health Department

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Lead Alert:** **Lead Found In Children Toys**



The Department of Health and Family Services has been notified that bendable toys given as prizes during summer library reading programs may contain hazardous levels of lead. These toys, were given away by several Wisconsin libraries, are from the same distributor that supplied toys to Indiana libraries and were found to contain lead. When the levels were found to have exceeded established safety limits, the Indiana State Health Department issued a consumer health alert (<http://www.in.gov/isdh/news/2006/08-04.htm>) about the toys.

The State Laboratory of Hygiene is currently analyzing the toys to determine lead levels. Even without knowing if the toys contain lead, the Madison Public Library is recalling the toys as a precaution (<http://www.channel3000.com/news/9644164/detail.html>).

All libraries in Oneida County have been contacted by the Oneida County Health Department. The Minocqua Public Library did give away a few of these toys as prizes for reading programs. Anyone who received a bendable toy in the shape of a dog or cat from their library should return the toy to the library they received it from or they should contact the Oneida County Health Department at 715-369-6111.

Lead can be very harmful to children. Lead poisoning can cause learning disabilities or could harm your child's development. According to Ann Ovsak, Public Health Nurse with the Oneida County Health Department, "The only way to know if your child has been lead poisoned is to get your child tested".

The Oneida County Health Department offers lead testing for children under age 6 free of charge. For more information contact the Oneida County Health Department at 715-369-6111.

*Oneida County Health Department will promote and protect the health of  
Oneida County by providing leadership, education and services.*